THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES

7 ETERNITY
$1.95/$2.50 in Canada

EXMUTANTS

WHAT--?
FLEK!
EMANUEL, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
ARE YOU HAVING ANOTHER PSYCHOTIC EPISODE?
..I SEE. PERHAPS WE MIGHT WORK SOMETHING OUT--
--TELL ME MORE, MY MYSTERIOUS PATRON.
ENEMY OF MY ENEMY, I CALL YOU FRIEND...
Devil

THE FOOL

I WANT MY PEOPLE OUT OF THE DUNGEONS, WASTELAND. WE'RE NOT CRIMINALS!
YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS WILL HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE, AND SWIFTLY.
IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL RELEASE YOUR COMPANIONS IF YOU SWEAR TO THEIR GOOD CONDUCT.
JUST LIKE THAT? YOU ARE A PUZZLING MAN, BARON WASTELAND.
I AM NOTHING IF NOT A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER. I BELIEVE YOU AND MOST OF YOUR PEOPLE ARE HONORABLE--I AM WILLING TO TEST MY BELIEF AGAINST YOUR FRIEND'S DEEDS.
THE LITTLE MAN--THE GNAT--IS NO FRIEND OF MINE. I CAN'T SPEAK FOR HIM.
I'LL DEAL WITH HIM.
AND SIMAK...
IS RECEIVING THE BEST CARE. I WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM SHORTLY, BUT THERE IS MUCH WE SHOULD DISCUSS.

WILL YOU JOIN ME IN A DRINK?
I DON'T DRINK.
SUIT YOURSELF.
MY CHARGES AGAINST ANGELA WILL STAND. SHE MUST MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO REHABILITATE HER WOUND SO SHE MAY STAND TRIAL.
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU!
IF I WANTED TO SHOOT ANGELA DEAD, YOU CAN BE SURE SHE WOULD NOT LIVE.
I SEEK JUSTICE, BUT I AM NOT AN EXECUTIONER.
AT PRESENT, I HAVE NO CHARGES AGAINST YOU OR THE OTHERS— YOU FOUGHT MY MEN IN SELF-DEFENSE. THE LITTLE MAN IS A QUESTION, BUT YOU HAVE FORESWORN HIS FATE.
I WANT TO FREE MY FRIENDS AND SEE GIMAK.
AS YOU WISH.
BUT THERE IS ONE THING.
YOU ARE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, ERIN. I AM VERY TAKEN WITH YOU, AND I INTEND TO WIN YOUR HEART.
YOU REALLY ARE THE LIMIT, WASTELAND. DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH.
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MEANWHILE, IN A PLACE WHERE YOU HAVE TO HOLD YOUR BREATH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT...
WE ARE AGREED, THEN, THAT THE DOC IS A CRAZYMON?
HE IS OUR FATHER, DRAKE.
GROW UP, GUSTAV. YOU SAW VAT HE DID TO NILLS!*
WE ARE UNANIMOUS, THEN...?
*ISSUE #5 -- REMEMBER? --ED.
WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM MARIKO.
SHE'S CHANGING AGAIN. SHE MIGHT NOT GROW A MOUTH FOR DAYS.
AND WE CAN NOT WAIT, OR WE WILL ALL END UP LIKE NILLS.
WE ARE A TEAM, THEN--DEDICATED TO DOCTOR CUGAT'S DEFEAT.
LET NO MAN BREAK DIS BOND. YOU KNOW THE PLAN; LET'S DO IT.
AND THEN I'LL RUN THIS TEAM!
AND THEN HELENE WILL BE MINE!
AND THEN HELENE WILL BE MINE, AND I'LL KILL THEM ALL!
MORE OF OUR NEW EX-MUTANTS --OR IS IT EX-HUMANS?-- IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

LET ME OUTTA HERE! I WANNA TALK TO MY LAWYER!
WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP?!
I DEMAND A WRIT OF HABEUS CORPUS DELICTI!
:SIGH:
HOW COME WE HAVE TO WAIT HERE WHILE ERIN ARGUES WITH THAT CREEP BARON WASTELAND?
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE LOOKS AT HER.
OWW!
QUIT COMPLAINING, YOU BABY!
AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT SIMAK, TOO!
UP ON YOUR FEET, I SEE.

HEY! YOU'RE THE GUY THAT KNOCKED ME OUT!
INDEED. I HAVE COME TO CLAIM MY RANSOM.
RANSOM?
OF COURSE. YOU FOUGHT BRAVELY, AND WELL, BUT I WAS THE VICTOR IN OUR CONTEST OF ARMS. BY RIGHTS, I CAN RANSOM YOU FROM YOUR LORD.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AH. HE HAS NO LORD, THEN. I SUSPECTED AS MUCH.
IN SUCH A CASE, I AM ENTITLED TO HIS HORSE AND ARMS, AT THE VERY LEAST...
...AND PERHAPS HIS CHATTLE, AS WELL.
MATCH IT, BUSTER.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I KNOW I DON'T LIKE IT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT. THAT'S JUSTICE, AND JUSTICE IS SERVED UNDER BARON WASTELAND!
YOUR HEAD WOUND HAS SOURED YOUR TEMPER. I WILL RETURN LATER.
I'LL SOUR HIS TEMPER...!
DID I MISS SOMETHING?
DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT CUSTOMS.

WHAT'S WITH THESE CROWDS? IS THIS A DUNGEON OR A BUS STATION?
GATHER YOUR GEAR. YOU'VE BEEN RELEASED.
NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEPLACE!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?!?
YOU ARE STILL A PRISONER. THE BARON WANTS TO SPEAK WITH YOU!
NO!! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE! THEY'LL TORTURE ME! THEY'LL PUT HOT WIRES IN MY BRAIN!
I'LL NEVER LET THEM TORTURE ME AGAIN! I ESCAPED DAHLGREN'S TOWER, AND I'LL BUST OUT OF THIS CRACKERBOX!!
MAYBE WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE GNAT--HE SOUNDS REALLY UPSET.
LET HIM ROT. HE GOT US INTO THIS.

THIS SURE IS A NEAT APARTMENT THE BARON GAVE US. I CAN SEE FOR MILES!
HEY DAD-- ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?
SAN DIEGO
UM.
ARE WE IN TROUBLE, DAD?
I DON'T KNOW, DUFF. I DON'T THINK SO. WE JUST FELL IN WITH A BAD CROWD, IS ALL.
THE EX-MUTANTS? I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD GUYS.
SO DID I, BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.
MORE AND MORE, THE EX-MUTANTS REMIND ME OF A PACK OF CHILDREN, LIKE A BUNCH OF LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS STUCK IN ADULT BODIES.
I HOPE I HAVEN'T HOOKED OUR WAGON TO THE WRONG TEAM OF HORSES.
WILL THE EX-MUTANTS BE BACK SOON?
I DON'T KNOW-- THEY'RE WORKING THINGS OUT WITH THE BARON...
...SO SLEEPY ...THIS BED IS WONDERFUL. YAWN!

THE DECISION OF THE PHOENIX IS UNANIMOUS
THROUGH BOND OF BLOOD SIMAK HAS BEEN FOUND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRIME OF TREASON AGAINST HIS HOME OF SAMORA
AS PUNISHMENT YOU WILL RELINQUISH YOUR ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE COMMERCE. YOU WILL OFFER YOUR SERVICES TO THE PHOENIX UNTIL SUCH TIME WE ARE CONVINCED JUSTICE HAS BEEN SERVED
YOUR SERVICE BEGINS IMMEDIATELY. THESE ARRIVALS FROM THE NEW DIMENSION OF EARTH ARE YOUR FIRST CHARGE
NO..!!

THESE...THINGS --THEY ARE TOO PRIMITIVE! THEY CANNOT CONTROL THEIR FORM--
YOU WILL TEACH THEM CONTROL.
THEY ARE RULED BY FEAR AND DARKNESS.
YOU WILL GIVE THEM LIGHT
THIS IS A FOOL'S ERRAND I WILL BE DESTROYED
PERHAPS NONETHELESS, THE BOND-ING MUST BEGIN
I AM SORRY MY FRIEND, BUT THERE MUST BE JUSTICE

AS THE COMMUNITY HAS SUFFERED, SO MUST YOU SUFFER
THIS DISEASE HAS TAKEN ROOT IN OUR SOULS
THIS CONTAMINATION IS INCURABLE AS WE CONSORT WITH BEASTS, WE BECOME BEASTS OURSELVES
IT IS A CANCER OF THE SOUL A DEEP-SEATED HORROR VOMITING FORTH FROM THE HEART OF OUR PEOPLE --
SOULP!
A RACIAL MEMORY OF DARKNESS.
NO...NOT YOU. NOOOOO!

NOOOOOOO!!!
SMAK, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
A DREAM
THANK THE PHOENIX IT WAS ONLY A DREAM
NO

SIMAK, WHAT'S WRONG?
DAHLGREN...
"DAHLGREN?" DIDN'T THE GNAT SCREAM SOMETHING ABOUT DAHLGREN?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT CREEP?
DID YOU SAW DAHLGREN?
YES
I THOUGHT I SENSED HIS HAND IN THIS.
WHO'S DAHLGREN?
A SORCERER WITH WHOM WE HAVE TANGLED A FEW TIMES. HE'S NOT A PLEASANT MAN--HE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE HUMAN.
HE IS NOT HE IS--
--WELL HE'S NOT HUMAN LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT

I MUST— PREPARE...
NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO LEAVE BED.
NO! THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO
LISTEN TO ME! YOU ARE IN THE GRIP OF A TERRIBLE FEVER, SOME DISEASE I CANNOT IDENTIFY UNLESS YOU ARE AWARE OF ANOTHER TREATMENT, YOU MUST REST.
MAGUS— IF DAHLGREN IS BEHIND THIS, SHOULDN'T WE PUMP SIMAK FOR ANYTHING HE KNOWS?
I'VE HELD OFF DAHLGREN BEFORE, I'M SURE I CAN DO IT AGAIN IN THE MEANTIME, SIMAK MUST REST
I AM AS MUCH YOUR PHYSICIAN AS YOUR COURT MAGICIAN, BARON. IN ALL OTHER THINGS I AM YOURS TO COMMAND BUT OF MEDICINE AND MAGIC I AM LORD
The Magician
VAINGLORIOUS FOOL.
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THEY ARE ALL OF THEM FOOLS, WITH THEIR TITLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND HIGH IDEALS.
THEY WORSHIP EQUALITY LIKE A GOD.
POWER IS THE ONLY SUPREME FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE, AND POWER RECOGNIZES NO MASTER SAVE THE STRONG!
CURSE THE SPELL OF EXILE THAT BINDS ME HERE! WOULD THAT I COULD ENGAGE MY ENEMIES DIRECTLY; RATHER THAN THROUGH COARSE INTERMEDIARIES.
THEN THIS WORLD WOULD KNOW HORROR...
DEATH
SOON... SOON, BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I MUST BE CONTENT WITH SUCH AGENTS AS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ME --
THE FOOL

"--AND IT PLEASES MY SENSE OF ECONOMY TO USE THE SAME TOOL FOR A SECOND TASK."
GNAT, YOUR LUCK HAS TURNED...!
THEY THINK I'M BLUFFING! I'LL SHOW THEM, I'LL CRACK OUT OF THIS PLACE...
LEAPIN' LIZARDS! I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP TOO LONG!
I OFFER YOU POWER UNDREAMED OF...
...A CHANCE TO VANQUISH YOUR ENEMIES...
SIGN ME UP!
WHAT'S THE PRICE?
YOUR SOUL.
I'M NOT USING IT, ANYWAY.
DONE!!

I CAN SEE CLEARLY, NOW.
ULK!
UP, GHOSTS!
LET'S DO SOME CRIMES!
DEATH
DEATH
HEY, DAD. A BUNCH OF MONSTERS JUST CAME OUT OF THE TOWER.
IT'S JUST... YOUR IMAGINATION, SON.
I'M KIND OF GETTING USED TO MONSTERS. THEY DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THEY USED TO.
THAT'S GOOD, DUFF. YOUR IMAGINATION CAN'T HURT YOU.

WOW. I GOT A PRETTY GOOD IMAGINATION.
UH, DAD...?
I THINK MY IMAGINATION IS RUNNING AWAY WITH ME!!!
MMPHH!
:SNORP!:
:MPPHH!:
:SNORP!:
NEXT ISSUE:
DEATH!